

THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

- 5 1. A method of linking web pages, comprising the step of:  
associating at least one supplementary link with a primary  
web page;  
providing means by which the at least one supplementary  
link becomes accessible to the user to enable the user to  
10 access at least one secondary web page.
2. The method as defined in Claim 1, the at least one  
supplementary link being stored in a datastructure that is  
separate from the primary web page.
- 15 3. The method as defined in Claim 2, the datastructure being  
associated with the primary web page.
4. The method as defined in Claim 1, the at least one  
20 supplementary link is hidden and becomes accessible to the user  
through a user initiated command.
5. The method as defined in Claim 4, the user initiated  
command being given through a single HTML tag on the primary  
25 web page.
6. The method as defined in Claim 4, the user initiated  
command being a keystroke command code.
- 30 7. The method as defined in Claim 4, the user initiated  
command being through an icon.
8. The method as defined in Claim 1, the means by which the  
at least one supplementary link becomes accessible to the user  
35 is a browser search option which automatically makes the at  
least one supplementary link accessible to the user immediately  
upon the user accessing the primary web page.

9. The method as defined in Claim 7, the icon being on a browser's tool bar.

10. The method as defined in Claim 1, including a request for  
5 linking application process whereby a third party seeks permission from an owner of the primary web page to add a new supplementary link to the primary web page.

10 11. The method as defined in Claim 10, the request for linking application process including a list of criterion which must be met before the third party can add a new supplementary link to the primary web page, the addition of the new supplementary link being automatically permitted upon the third party meeting the list of criterion.

15 12. The method as defined in Claim 1 or 4, further including means for searching for supplementary links within a specified proximity to a cursor.

20 13. The method as defined in Claim 1 or 4, further including a search engine that searches for supplementary links that meet specified search criterion.

05988669-11001  
FOOT-68888650

associating at least one supplementary link with a primary web page, the at least one supplementary link being stored in a datastructure that is separate from content of the primary web page, the at least one supplementary link providing access to at least one secondary web page.

10

15

20

COI

25

CO

30

22

browser's tool bar.

23. The method as defined in Claim 14 including a request for linking application process whereby a third party seeks  
5 permission from an owner of the primary web page to add a new supplementary link to the primary web page.

24. The method as defined in Claim 23, the request for linking application process including a list of criterion which must  
10 be met before the third party can add a new supplementary link to the primary web page, the addition of the new supplementary link being automatically permitted upon the third party meeting the list of criterion.

25. The method as defined in Claim 14, further including means for searching for hidden supplementary links within a specified proximity to a cursor.  
15

26. The method as defined in Claim 14, further including a search engine that searches for hidden supplementary links that  
20 meet specified search criterion.

09999999-11001

providing a primary web page with a request for linking application process whereby a third party seeks permission from an owner of the primary web page to add a new link to the primary web page.

28. The method as defined in Claim 27, the request for linking application process including a list of criterion which must  
10 be met before the third party can add a new link to the primary web page, the addition of the new link being automatically permitted upon the third party meeting the list of criterion.

5

10

15

20

30. A web page link, comprising:

at least one supplementary hidden link associated with a primary web page; and

5 means by which the at least one supplementary hidden link becomes accessible to the user to enable the user to access at least one secondary web page.

31. The web page link as defined in Claim 30, wherein the at  
10 least one supplementary hidden link is stored in a datastructure that is separate from the primary web page.

32. The web page link as defined in Claim 30, wherein the  
15 datastructure contains several supplementary hidden links associated with the primary web page.

33. The web page link as defined in Claim 30, wherein the  
20 means by which the at least one supplementary hidden link becomes accessible to the user is through a user initiated command.

34. The web page link as defined in Claim 33, wherein the user  
initiated command is given through a single HTML tag on the  
primary web page.

25 35. The web page link as defined in Claim 33, wherein the user initiated command is a keystroke command code.

36. The web page link as defined in Claim 33, wherein the user  
30 initiated command is through an icon.

37. The web page link as defined in Claim 30, wherein the  
means by which the at least one hidden link becomes accessible  
to the user is a browser search option which automatically  
35 makes the at least one supplementary hidden link accessible to  
the user immediately upon the user accessing the primary web  
page.

09999999 110001

39. The web page link as defined in Claim 30, wherein a  
5 request for linking application process is provided whereby a  
third party seeks permission from an owner of the primary web  
page to add a new supplementary hidden link to the primary web  
page.

41. The web page link as defined in Claim 30, wherein means  
are provided for searching for hidden supplementary links  
20 within a specified proximity to a cursor.

25



43. A web page link, comprising:

at least one supplementary link with a primary web page,  
the at least one supplementary link being stored in a  
5 datastructure that is separate from content of the primary web  
page, the at least one supplementary link providing access to  
at least one secondary web page.

44. The web page link as defined in Claim 43, wherein the at  
10 least one supplementary link is hidden to a user when the  
primary web page is active, until selectively accessed by a  
user.

45. The web page link as defined in Claim 43, wherein the  
15 datastructure contains several supplementary links associated  
with the primary web page.

46. The web page link as defined in Claim 44, wherein the at  
least one supplementary hidden link becomes accessible to the  
20 user through a user initiated command.

47. The web page link as defined in Claim 46, wherein the user  
initiated command is given through a single HTML tag on the  
primary web page.

25

48. The web page link as defined in Claim 46, wherein the user  
initiated command is a keystroke command code.

49. The web page link as defined in Claim 46, wherein the user  
30 initiated command is through an icon.

50. The web page link as defined in Claim 43, wherein the at  
least one supplementary hidden link becomes accessible to the  
user as a browser search option which automatically makes the  
35 at least one hidden link accessible to the user immediately  
upon the user accessing the primary web page.

09988669-11001

15

10

53. The web page link as defined in Claim 43, wherein the  
10 request for linking application process includes a list of  
criterion which must be met before the third party can add a  
new supplementary link to the primary web page, the addition  
of the new supplementary link being automatically permitted  
upon the third party meeting the list of criterion.

54. A web page link, comprising:

a primary web page with a request for linking application process whereby a third party seeks permission from an owner  
5 of the primary web page to add a new link to the primary web page.

55. The web page link as defined in Claim 54, wherein the request for linking application process includes a list of  
10 criterion which must be met before the third party can add a new link to the primary web page, the addition of the new link being automatically permitted upon the third party meeting the list of criterion.

15

T0001T" 68888660

56. A web page link, comprising:

several supplementary hidden links associated with a primary web page, the supplementary hidden links being stored  
5 in a datastructure that is separate from content of the primary web page;

a user initiated command by means of which the at supplementary hidden links becomes accessible to the user to enable the user to access selected secondary web pages;

10 a request for linking application process whereby a third party seeks permission from an owner of the primary web page to add a new supplementary hidden link to the primary web page, the request for linking application process including a list of criterion which must be met before the third party can add  
15 a new supplementary hidden link to the primary web page, the addition of the new supplementary hidden link being automatically permitted upon the third party meeting the list of criterion.

at least one supplementary link associated with a primary web page; and

58. The web page link as defined in Claim 57, wherein the at  
10 least one supplementary link becomes accessible to the user  
through a user initiated command.

60. The web page link as defined in Claim 58, wherein the user initiated command is initiated through an X-ray cursor.

62. The web page link as defined in Claim 58, wherein the  
25 association between the at least one supplementary link and the  
primary web page is explicitly reflected as content on the  
primary web page.

64. The web page link as defined in Claim 58, wherein multiple  
35 supplementary links are provided with each supplementary link  
being linked to a point on the primary web page.

65. The web page link as defined in Claim 58, wherein multiple supplementary are linked to individual points on the primary web page.

5

66. The method as defined in Claim 1 or 4, the association between the at least one supplementary link and the primary web page being explicitly reflected as content on the primary web page.

10

67. The method as defined in Claim 1 or 4, the association between the at least one supplementary link and the primary web page being implicitly derived from a selected attribute of the primary web page.

15

68. The method as defined in Claim 1 or 4, having multiple supplementary links, with each supplementary link being linked to a point on the primary web page.

20

69. The method as defined in Claim 1 or 4, multiple supplementary links being linked to individual points on the primary web page.

09583339-112001